

Borough of Rugby.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1947,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa :

A. TOMES LTD., PRINTERS, 46, BEDFORD STREET.

1948.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30046324>

1, MILVERTON HILL,
LEAMINGTON • SPA.

June, 1948.

To the Rugby Borough Council.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Report for 1947, this is the 29th Annual Report I have presented to you and will be, I am sorry to say, the last.

The new arrangements, under the National Health Service Act 1946, whereby the Mid Warwickshire Joint Sanitary District will be varied, and Rugby Borough and Rugby Rural District will have a Medical Officer, who, apart from certain duties for the County Council, will be able to devote his time to their service, is, I think, the best possible and most effective arrangement, and I shall hope to witness its success.

As for myself, I can only thank the various members of the Council and the Officials for their invariable courtesy and kindness to me, I shall continue to remember with pleasure the time when I had the honour to serve the Borough of Rugby.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,
Medical Officer of Health.

Borough of Rugby.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1947	...	...	43,780
Birth Rate	...	...	19.8
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	11
Death Rate	...	...	11.0
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis ,, other causes		— 1

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	36
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	38
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	2
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	7

Population 43,780.—Reference to Table II. near the end of the Report will show the trend of population in recent years ; it will be seen that the highest estimated population was in 1941, viz., 44,180 ; from that time to 1945 it decreased, and is now rising again, apparently between 400 and 500 per year.

Birth Rate.—19.8 per 1,000 population. Slightly below that for England and Wales, viz., 20.5, the highest rate in recent years 20.0 was in 1944.

Death Rate.—11.0 per 1,000, below that for the rest of the country 12.0, and a little above the average for past years.

Infantile Death Rate.—36 per 1,000 births ; this is below the average for recent years, and much lower than the figure for England and Wales (41).

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. *Public Health Officers*.—All members of the staff who have been serving in H.M. Forces have now returned, but owing to the attraction of higher salaried appointments there have been unfilled vacancies in the Department for the greater part of the year.

The staff has been as follows during 1947 :—

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

T. BARTLETT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., etc., Chief Sanitary Inspector.

A. J. MASI, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., etc., Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector.

S. H. WEST, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., etc. (resigned 31st October, 1947), District Sanitary Inspector.

A. V. GRIFFITH, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., etc. (resigned 5th August, 1947), District Sanitary Inspector.

F. H. A. BURTON, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Pupil Sanitary Inspector to 31st August, 1947, then District Sanitary Inspector.

R. WELCH (returned 27th January, 1947), Clerk and Pupil Sanitary Inspector.

Miss M. K. STEWART, Senior Clerk.

Miss G. GILBERT, Junior Clerk (from 10th November, 1947).

J. C. HILL, Sanitary Assistant.

J. H. PELL, Rodent Operative.

6. *Laboratory Facilities*.—The following Table shows the number of bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive		Negative		Total
Diphtheria ...	1	...	62	...	62
Enteric Fever	—	...	—	...	—
Tuberculosis ...	—	...	2	...	3
					<hr/> 65 <hr/>

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (1) *Water*.—During the year an exceptional drought occurred, with the result that considerable demands were made on Rugby's water supply, but no restrictions had to be imposed and at all times a regular and satisfactory supply was given. The demand was particularly heavy in the parts of the Southam and Rugby Rural Districts which the Borough supplies.

Eighteen samples of water supplied for domestic consumption were analysed during the year, and in all cases satisfactory results were obtained.

- (i) The water supply of the District has been satisfactory both in (a) quality and (b) quantity.
- (ii) Regular bacteriological and chemical examinations of the raw and treated water are made and the latter have invariably proved satisfactory.
- (iii) No plumbo solvent action.
- (iv) (a) 99 per cent. direct to dwelling houses.

(2) *Drainage and Sewerage*.—In spite of the fact that the Sewage Disposal Works are overloaded and no extensions have been permitted, they have been maintained in a satisfactory condition and the effluents have been quite good.

No extensions to sewers have been made during the year with the exception of those serving new housing schemes.

2. (1) *Public Cleansing*.—One new vehicle was supplied during the year and two further vehicles are on order, but it has not been possible to revert to the former practice of a weekly collection of domestic refuse.

The gully emptier and sewer flushing vehicle referred to in the 1946 Report, has been delivered and is being put into service during 1948.

(2) *Swimming Baths*.—With the good summer the demand on the Open Air Pool and the Swimming Baths was increased. The whole of the treatment of the water was carried out efficiently by filtration.

D. HOUSING.

General Observations.—No systematic house-to-house inspections have been carried out.

Clearance Areas.—Two Clearance Areas have been declared and Orders made during the year. These consisted of 2 houses each in which 19 persons were living. There were no objections and the Ministry of Health confirmed the Orders on the 30th September, 1947.

The total number of dwelling houses inspected during the year under the Public Health or Housing Acts was 831 and for this purpose 2435 visits were made. Four hundred and sixty-four notices were served in respect of houses found not to be reasonably fit for human habitation and 310 were complied with.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*—During the year 230 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and 87 samples for chemical analysis. The table below summarises the results :

<i>Grade of Milk.</i>	<i>Ungraded.</i>		<i>Pasteurised.</i>		<i>Sterilized.</i>	
	<i>Chemical.</i>	<i>Bacteriological.</i>	<i>Chemical.</i>	<i>Bacteriological.</i>	<i>Chemical.</i>	<i>Bacteriological.</i>
Samples taken	85	182	2	25	—	23
Samples Satisfactory ...	76	85*	2	20	—	23
Samples Unsatisfactory ...	9	97*	—	5	—	—
% of Samples Unsatisfactory	11.8	53.3*	—	20	—	—

*Based on the methylene blue and presumptive B. coli tests.

In addition 6 samples of milk were taken for examination for the presence of living tubercle bacilli. All gave negative results. This work was interrupted during the year due to difficulties at the Laboratory.

The vendors and producers of unsatisfactory samples submitted for bacteriological examination were notified of the results and further action taken and advice given where necessary. In one instance where 4 samples of washings from utensils were taken and advice given, a marked immediate

improvement was noted in the results of follow-up and subsequent samples. Generally, however, no great progress is being made, and it is doubtful if there will be while the emphasis is on quantity.

(b) *Meat Inspection*.—All slaughtering for Rugby and District has been carried out on behalf of the Ministry of Food at the Cattle Market Slaughterhouses and all condemned meat and offals have been sent by the Ministry to a waste utilization plant at Northampton.

Centralisation of slaughtering makes possible the complete and efficient inspection of all meat slaughtered, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Mr. Masi, who act as Meat Inspectors for the Ministry of Food, have found that the Ministry officials have sought and welcomed their close co-operation.

The following is a summary of animals slaughtered and inspected and meat condemned during the year :—

	<i>Beasts.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Slaughtered ...	1933	611	7677	154	1960	12335
<i>Tuberculosis.</i>						
Whole Carcases	12	22	—	6	7	47
Part Carcases and/or Organs	233	221	—	11	—	465
% affected with <i>Tuberculosis</i>	12.67	39.77	—	11.04	0.35	4.15
<i>Other Diseases and Conditions.</i>						
Whole Carcases	9	12	93	1	51	166
Part Carcases and/or Organs	478	204	332	18	6	1038
% affected ...	25.19	35.35	5.53	12.34	2.91	9.75
<i>Total % affected</i>	37.86	75.12	5.53	23.38	3.26	13.90

Meat Condemned :

<i>Animals</i>	<i>Whole Carcases.</i>		<i>Part Carcases.</i>		<i>Organs.</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Beasts	21	9,124	34	1,186	1,047	18,091
Cows ...	34	13,504	31	1,798	1,039	13,758
Sheep ...	93	3,396	57	372	363	1,260
Pigs ...	7	936	13	202	34	184
Calves ...	58	2,084	5	79	59	439
TOTAL	213	29,044	140	3,637	2,542	33,732

GRAND TOTAL.—66,413 lbs. or 29 tons 12 cwts. and 109 lbs.

The figures show that the incidence of tuberculosis among food animals is still on the increase.

With regard to the amount of meat condemned it is estimated that 855 tons of English meat and 130 tons of offal is inspected and of this 1.7% of meat and 11% of offal is condemned.

(c) *Bakehouses*.—There are 22 bakehouses on the Register including factory bakehouses. All bakehouses were inspected during the year and were found generally clean but structurally some need reconstruction.

(d) *Food and Drugs*.—During 1947, 188 samples have been taken by your Sampling Officers, and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis. One hundred and sixty-three samples were genuine and 25 were reported as not genuine.

In two cases proceedings were instituted and were successful. In one case the local manager of a multiple butchery firm was fined two pounds and three guineas costs for selling sausages deficient in meat, and for a similar offence a local butcher was fined five pounds.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1938.

		Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1939	...	—	5	37	—	53	—	14
1940	...	—	37	144	—	60	—	14
1941	...	—	49	94	2	85	—	8
1942	...	—	13	66	—	61	—	17
1943	...	—	13	43	—	80	—	7
1944	...	—	4	90	2	56	—	8
1945	...	—	3	89	2	50	—	10
1946	...	—	—	66	10	58	—	6
1947	...	—	1	80	1	34	—	2

Reference to Table III. will give the age incidence of the cases notified during 1947.

Smallpox.—No cases were notified during the year.

Diphtheria.—During the past year only one case of Diphtheria was notified. The total number of cases for the past 2 years has been one, and during the past 5 years the total has only reached 21. It would appear that Immunisation has had a considerable effect.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Continued during the year and at the end of 1947, 3,858 school children had been treated and 3,317 under school age, giving a total of 7,165.

Scarlet Fever.—The number of cases was greater than in 1946, 80 as against 66. The cases occurred practically entirely in the first and last quarters of the year. 54 were treated in hospital.

Enteric Fever.—One case was notified.

School Closures.—Nil.

Non-notifiable Infectious Disease.—There was nothing of special note.

Notifications of infectious disease occurring amongst the children at school are duly sent by the teachers.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE—PERIODS			NEW CASES.						DEATHS.					
						Non-						Non-		
			Pulmonary.		M.	Pulmonary.		M.	Pulmonary.		M.	Pulmonary.		M.
			M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.	
0	1	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	2	—
1	1	—	...	—	1	...	—	—	...	—	—
5	1	—	...	3	2	...	—	—	...	1	1
15	7	12	...	2	1	...	7	1	...	—	—
25	7	6	...	—	1	...	2	1	...	1	1
35	4	1	...	—	—	...	2	3	...	—	1
45	5	1	...	—	—	...	2	—	...	1	—
55	3	1	...	—	—	...	2	—	...	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	...	—	—	...	1	—	...	—	—
TOTALS			...	29	22	...	5	5	...	16	5	...	5	3

During the past year there have been notified 61 cases. In 51 cases the lungs were affected, and the remaining 10 the disease affected other parts of the body.

Of the 61 new cases notified during the past year, 4 have died during the year.

Tuberculosis.—The following table shows the number of notifications and deaths during the past 20 years:—

	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
Cases ...	25	26	35	38	37	42	41
Deaths ...	13	19	15	25	38	24	25
	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Cases ...	45	47	49	58	46	57	67
Deaths ...	31	22	22	22	30	30	22
	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	
Cases ...	66	62	70	80	83	61	
Deaths ...	24	19	28	31	25	29	

Treatment.—During the past year 27 cases have been admitted to a Sanatorium for treatment.

22 cases were discharged after treatment.

It will be noted that there has been a decrease in the number of cases notified, as compared with the figures of 1945 and 1946. The question of treatment of the cases is a serious one, as owing to staffing difficulties the shortage of beds available at the Sanatorium is acute.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Rugby.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your information my report on the work carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1947.

Table I gives a summary of that part of the work that can be usefully tabulated in that form.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year notifications were received in respect of 140 cases of infectious diseases, details of which are included in Table III.

The accommodation at the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Harborough Magna has been adequate for all requirements and the following summary shows how the cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever were nursed:—

	<i>Diphtheria.</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>
At Harborough Magna ...	... 1	... 56
Nursed at Home ...	... 1	... 24
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 80

In addition one case of whooping cough, two cases of measles and two of para-typhoid fever were admitted to the Hospital.

During the year the motor van which had given twelve years service was disposed of and an ex-W.D. vehicle was obtained from the Ministry of Supply. The combined mileage for the two vehicles was 5,036 miles during 1947.

The total number of visits made by the Sanitary Assistant in connection with infectious disease prevention and other duties was 1520.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The Corporation Slaughterhouses are still being used by the Ministry of Food as a Slaughtering Centre, and complete inspection of 12,335 animals slaughtered during the past year was carried out. I must again stress that the structural condition of the Slaughterhouses is such that extensive repairs should be considered as soon as such work is possible.

UNSOUND FOOD.

A detailed statement of meat condemned appears in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. Other foods found to be unfit for human consumption include tinned foods, fresh and cured fish, bacon, imported meat, cereals, chickens, rabbits, cheese, nuts and fruit, and to cover their surrender 324 certificates were issued in respect of 1611 tins and 6,785 lbs. of food. Of this 48 tins and 2,203 lbs. of food were salvaged chiefly for animal feeding stuffs.

FACTORIES.

There are now 231 premises on the Register under the Factories Act, 1937, of which 22 are bakehouses. All bakehouses have been inspected at least once during the year. Cleanliness is maintained generally at a high standard, but reconstruction is required in some instances. One premises has been in the course of reconstruction during the year but the shortage of materials is making progress slow. Systematic inspection of factories has been recommenced and during the year seventy-one such inspections were made. Seven notices were served under the Factories Act, 4 of which were complied with.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

At the end of 1947 the number of persons on the Registers as retail purveyors of milk was 37, and as wholesale purveyors and producers 30, making a total of 67.

There are now 27 registered cowsheds and 44 dairies within the Borough.

One hundred and twenty-one visits were made to registered premises during the year. Following the detailed survey made last year, a number of proposals have been brought forward to bring premises up

to the required standard, but in only two cases has the work been completed, while five are in various stages of progress, the largest project being held up for steel.

During the year a close watch has been kept on the pasteurised milk supply, all of which is received from one source outside the Borough and the results of the fortnightly sampling have shown no improvement on the 1946 results. A disturbing feature was that the unsatisfactory results, which were 20 per cent. of the samples taken, were all obtained during one period—around midsummer.

Samples of milk for examination for keeping quality have been taken from all retailers of non-graded milks about once every two months during the year. A slight improvement has been noted generally which we hope to maintain. Where the milk is produced within the Borough and when bad results are obtained, "follow-up" visits are made.

I am satisfied that insufficient attention is paid by some producers and retailers to the adequate cooling of the milk and complete cleansing and sterilization of utensils. This is reflected in the results obtained, 53 per cent. of the samples submitted were of poor keeping quality as assessed by the methylene blue test, or failed to pass the presumptive *B. coli* test.

Due to the shortage of guinea pigs at the laboratory it was only possible to take 6 samples for inoculation tests for the presence of living tubercle bacilli. All were negative.

FOODS AND DRUGS.

One hundred and eighty-eight samples were submitted to the Public Analysts for chemical analysis and the table below summarises the results obtained and the action taken:—

ARTICLE.	INFORMAL.		FORMAL.		ACTION TAKEN.
	<i>Genuine.</i>	<i>Adulterated.</i>	<i>Genuine.</i>	<i>Adulterated.</i>	
Almond Spread	1	—	—	—	Informal No. 91 deficient. Formal No. 117 taken—deficient. Vendor warned.
Ammoniated Quinine ...	1	—	—	—	
Apple Juice ...	1	—	—	—	
Baking Powder	4	1	1	1	
Barley ...	1	—	—	—	Informal No. 2 deficient. Vendor out of stock.
Beef Fluid ...	1	—	—	—	
Boric Lint ...	—	1	—	—	
Brawn ...	—	—	1	—	
CARRIED FORWARD	9	2	2	1	

ARTICLE.	INFORMAL.		FORMAL.		ACTION TAKEN.
	<i>Genuine.</i>	<i>Adulterated.</i>	<i>Genuine.</i>	<i>Adulterated.</i>	
BROUGHT FORWARD	9	2	2	1	
Butter ...	—	—	2	—	
Cheese ...	—	—	1	—	
Cherrum ...	1	—	—	—	
Cod Liver Oil ...	1	—	—	—	
Coffee ...	1	—	—	—	
Cooking Fat ...	—	—	3	—	
Cough Mixture	3	—	—	—	
Embrocation ...	1	—	—	—	
Fever Mixture ...	—	1	—	1	Informal No. 92. Formula incorrect. Formal No. 115 taken. Vendor warned.
Fish Cakes ...	1	—	—	—	
Fish Paste ...	2	—	—	—	
Formalin ...	1	—	—	—	
Gelatine ...	1	—	—	—	
Glycerine ...	1	1	1	—	Informal No. 54 adulterated. Subsequent form No. 87 genuine.
Glycerine of Borax	1	—	—	—	
Ground Ginger	1	—	—	—	
Headache Powders	1	—	—	—	
Iodine ...	—	1	—	1	Informal No. 48 deficient. Formal No. 85 taken. Deficient, stock destroyed.
Influenza Mixture	—	1	—	—	Informal No. 170. Incorrect formula. Vendor warned.
Iodine Ointment	1	—	—	—	
Jam ...	—	—	2	—	
Jellies ...	—	—	1	—	
Lemonade Crystals	1	—	—	—	
Liquorice and Blackcurrant Pellets ...	—	1	—	—	No formula.
Malt Bars ...	—	1	—	—	Informal No. 123. Incorrect formula.
CARRIED FORWARD	27	8	12	3	

ARTICLE.	INFORMAL.		FORMAL.		ACTION TAKEN.
	<i>Gen- uine.</i>	<i>Adul- tera- ted.</i>	<i>Gen- uine.</i>	<i>Adul- tera- ted.</i>	
BROUGHT FORWARD	27	8	12	3	<p>Informal No. 121 deficient. Vendor warned</p> <p>Formal Sample No. 69 20% deficient in fat. "Course of Delivery" Samples 74, 75, 76 & 83 deficient in fat. Follow-up "Appeal to the Cow" samples deficient in fat. Producers advised. Sample No. 104 4% added water—vendor warned.</p> <p>Informal Samples Nos. 177 and 178 10% deficient in fat. Formal Sample No. 182 deficient in fat—vendor warned</p>
Malted Milk ...	1	—	—	—	
Malt Extract ...	1	—	—	—	
Malt Vinegar ...	6	1	1	—	
Milk ...	—	2	78	7	
Mints ...	1	—	—	—	
Mock Marzipan	1	—	—	—	
Mustard ...	2	—	—	—	
Pepper ...	2	—	—	—	
Peppermint ...	1	—	—	—	
Polony ...	1	—	1	—	<p>Sample No; 89 Incorrectlydescribed. Referred to the Ministry of Food.</p>
Potted Beef ...	—	—	1	—	
Pudding Mixture	1	—	—	—	
Quinine ...	1	—	—	—	
Refined Oil ...	—	1	—	—	
CARRIED FORWARD	45	12	93	10	

ARTICLE.	INFORMAL.		FORMAL.		ACTION TAKEN.
	<i>Genuine.</i>	<i>Adulterated.</i>	<i>Genuine.</i>	<i>Adulterated.</i>	
BROUGHT F'WARD	45	12	93	10	Sample No. 18 deficient of 14% meat. Vendor warned. Sample No. 119 deficient of 46% meat Vendor prosecuted. Sample N. 141 deficient of 34% meat. Vendor prosecuted.
Rheumatic Mixture ...	1	—	—	—	
Sauce Powder ...	1	—	—	—	
Sausages ...	3	—	2	3	
Self Raising Flour	—	—	2	—	
Semolina ...	2	—	—	—	
Soups ...	3	—	—	—	
Sweetening Tablets ...	1	—	—	—	
Throat Tablets	2	—	—	—	
Tonic Mixture	1	—	—	—	
Tonic Tablets ...	1	—	—	—	
Vitamin Tablets	1	—	—	—	
Vitamin Tonic ...	1	—	—	—	
Wines ...	—	—	2	—	
Zinc and Castor Oil ...	2	—	—	—	
TOTAL ...	64	12	99	13	

ICE CREAM.

There are 54 premises registered under the Rugby Corporation Act where ice cream has been handled during 1946. These include 12 manufacturers premises and 4 itinerant vendors. Of the manufacturers 5 use the " Hot Mix " and 7 the " Cold Mix " methods of manufacture.

Inspections have been made of all premises; and with minor exceptions, all have complied with the Heat Treatment Regulations. Generally ice cream is handled in a satisfactory manner.

Great difficulty is being experienced in obtaining new equipment and I have also been unable to commence a satisfactory sampling service due to my inability to obtain a suitable portable storage unit for the conveyance of samples.

MANUFACTURE OF PRESERVED AND POTTED FOODS.

During the past year one hundred and sixty visits have been made to premises registered under the Rugby Corporation Act, 1933. There are now 63 such premises on the register including 32 butchers, 15 fish friers, 12 bakehouses and 4 manufacturing premises.

All these premises have been inspected since the "Schedule of Requirements" for the purposes of complying with Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act, was approved by you early in 1947, and improvements and where necessary alterations have been suggested to comply with such Schedule. Some improvements and alterations have been commenced but the task of bringing all premises up to the standard will take time and a lot of patience in the circumstances in which we find ourselves. I am, however, happy to report that the spirit of co-operation existing between the traders concerned and your Inspectors is a sign that difficulties will be overcome.

HOUSING.

Altogether 831 houses were inspected for defects or nuisances and 177 for overcrowding, and in consequence 464 notices were served. Work carried out made 834 houses reasonably fit for human habitation.

Four dwelling houses were dealt with under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, as two Clearance Areas. The Clearance Orders were confirmed by the Minister of Health. These four houses were due for clearance action in 1939 and a further 8 years of dilapidation have rendered them even more unfit so justifying clearance action even at the much lowered standards of the present day.

The position with regard to maintenance repairs has deteriorated rather than improved since my last report, and your inspectors are making 3 visits where one would have been necessary previously to get even most essential work done. The general public do not realise the position and seem to think the Sanitary Inspector is not affected by shortages, licences and labour difficulties, and their "touchiness" is inclined to hinder rather than help in the difficult task of keeping houses wind and weatherproof. One nevertheless appreciates that these are still times of stress and "touchiness" is a fairly common complaint.

No noticeable increase in statutory over-crowding was found although there have been a greater number of complaints.

RATS AND MICE.

At the beginning of the year the initial treatments of the sewers was carried out, 731 manholes throughout the town were pre-baited and poison baits laid in 327 from which the pre-bait had been taken. Later in the year a maintenance treatment was carried out and in less than 5 per cent. of the manholes were takes still recorded suggesting a good kill of rats in the sewers by the initial treatments.

The inspection of premises under the Private Dwellings Special Scheme 1946-7 was carried through almost to completion during the year. The town was divided into ten zones and at the end of the year 11,626 premises in nine zones had been inspected. 177 infestations had been found affecting 441 premises. All except three had been treated and in the latter treatment was progressing. Where business premises have been affected, a charge has been made covering the cost of treatment.

This survey has caused the public to become rodent conscious and in addition to the survey, 53 casual complaints have been received and 155 visits have been made. It was, however, only necessary to serve one preliminary notice under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, which was complied with. Only one major infestation was found and very successfully treated.

SHOPS ACTS.

One hundred and fourteen inspections were made during the year and 13 notices served. Eight had been complied with by the end of the year.

RIVER POLLUTION.

At the end of the year there was nothing in the appearance of the River bed nor of the water flowing therein to suggest any change in condition except perhaps that the bed was carrying still more vegetable growth, possibly resulting from the exceptionally dry hot summer during 1947.

Several occasions have arisen during the course of the year when investigation and action was necessary. The most serious of these occurred when a quantity of Gas Works liquor overflowed into the sewer and passed through the Sewage Works to the River, causing considerable discolouration of the water. The principle effect of this discharge was to close down the Ryton Works of the City of Coventry Water Department as it was considered that the presence of gas liquor with a high percentage of phenols and thiocyanates rendered the water unfit to treat for use for public supply purposes.

The overflow was due to the Gas Company's inability to dispose of the liquor, transport difficulties having prevented an adequate and continuous supply of tank wagons reaching the Works. Vigorous combined action by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Transport after a Conference of the officers of the authorities and others concerned resulted in an immediate improvement in the situation. The River appeared to recover rapidly since when there has been no deterioration and no further trouble has arisen.

The other occasions were ill defined, sporadic pollutions, but of a minor character, and every effort was made to trace the source in order to prevent recurrence and also to prevent larger troubles.

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

There has been no recurrence of the grit and fume nuisance noted in my last report as the management have overcome the cause of the trouble. One chimney at a public building has caused some smoke nuisance but it is felt that the measures now being taken will bring about much improvement.

Otherwise there is little smoke nuisance in the town from industrial chimneys.

GENERAL.

Table I shows the number of inspections made and notices served in respect of various premises but in addition the following visits and observations have been made :—

Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	361
Sampling	...	...	...	544
Interviews	...	...	...	534
Timber Control and Essential Repair Certificates	...	...	...	416
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	111
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	72

A synopsis of notices served and complied with under the various statutes used by the Sanitary Inspector is summarised as follows :—

STATUTE.	SERVED.		COMPLIED WITH.	
	<i>Prelim-inary.</i>	<i>Statu-tory.</i>	<i>Prelim-inary.</i>	<i>Statu-tory.</i>
Housing Act	110	25	120	11
Public Health Act ...	388	44	222	31
Rugby Corporation Act	39	—	57	—
Factories Act	7	—	7	—
Shops Act	13	—	8	—
Milk & Dairies Regulations	5	—	2	—
Food & Drugs Act ...	87	—	13	—
Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act	1	—	1	—
Rugby Urban District Council Act	7	4	—	3
Petroleum Act	41	—	15	—
TOTAL	698	73	445	45

There has been no improvement with regard to the supply of materials or labour during the past year and I must again stress that house structures have further deteriorated due to these shortages.

Mr. R. Welch returned to his duties as Pupil/Sanitary Inspector during the year after service in H.M. Forces. Those members of the staff returned from H.M. Forces have settled down exceedingly well to their long interrupted studies and I am very pleased to record the following examination successes during 1947 :—

S. H. West Smoke Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

A. V. Griffith Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

F. H. A. Burton Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.

Mr. A. V. Griffith left the service of your Authority in August and Mr. S. H. West in October, and although Mr. F. H. A. Burton was promoted to fill one vacancy there was still one vacancy at the end of the year. The shortage of qualified Sanitary Inspectors is acute particularly in areas like Rugby where meat and food inspection experience is necessary.

Local authorities are offering higher grading under National Charter Scales to attract suitable applicants for vacant positions. This may be good or bad according to point of view but it is indicative of the present situation.

I acknowledge the energetic support given me by the whole of the staff of the Department, particularly that of Mr. Masi, and regret the disappointment that they have often felt in consequence of their lack of achievement. This sense of frustration owing to "deficiencies" is very prevalent and not confined to Sanitary Inspectors, but I think that Public Health Officers, as they are so closely in contact with the effects of this prolonged deferment of essential works, and so long as they remain sensitive, find the situation harrowing.

I would acknowledge too the consideration always extended to me by Dr. Gibbons Ward.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. BARTLETT,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE 1.

BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

SUMMARY OF VISITS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH
BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING 1947.

			Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
				Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses	...	1,635	6	412	24	285
Lodging Houses	...	3	—	1	—	1
Tents, Vans and Sheds		23	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds	...	46	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops		121	—	5	—	3
Bakehouses	...	61	—	3	—	3
Slaughterhouses	...	662	—	—	—	—
Food Premises	...	742	—	85	—	13
Ice Cream Premises	...	106	—	2	—	—
Markets	...	55	—	—	—	—
Shops	...	147	—	13	—	8
Factories	...	71	—	4	—	4
Refuse	...	156	4	39	3	57
Water Closets	...	12	4	57	—	44
Drainage	...	673	—	13	—	8
Public Sewers	...	361	55	—	50	—
Pigs and other animals		32	—	1	—	1
Rivers and streams	...	80	—	—	—	—
Rats and Mice	...	155	—	1	—	1
Smoke abatement	...	106	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	...	15	—	1	—	1
Other Nuisances	...	115	—	—	—	—
Water Supply	...	101	4	7	3	—
5,478			73	644	80	429

Seizures and surrender of unsound food (except meat)	...	...	324
Samples of food taken for analysis	...	...	188
Samples of unsound food found adulterated	...	...	25
Samples of River water taken for analysis	...	...	6
Samples of drinking water taken for analysis	...	...	14
Samples of drinking water unsafe for use	...	...	8

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of infected bedding, etc. disinfected or destroyed	...	542
Rooms of houses disinfected after cases of infectious diseases	...	134
Schools disinfected after cases of infectious diseases	...	2

T. BARTLETT, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.

BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1947 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1941	44,180	690	15.6	31	44	487	11.0
1942	43,770	705	17.1	22	31	419	9.6
1943	43,540	856	19.6	33	39	462	10.6
1944	43,930	885	20.0	30	34	406	9.3
1945	42,820	823	19.2	38	46	429	10.0
1946	43,410	858	19.7	27	31	438	10.1
1947	43,780	865	19.8	31	36	482	11.0

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1947.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1947.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

			Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	...	...	20.5	0.50	12.0	41
126 Great Towns, including London			23.3	0.62	13.0	47
148 Smaller Towns ...	...	...	22.2	0.54	11.9	36
London	...	...	22.7	0.49	12.8	37

TABLE III.

BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1947.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Plague ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....
Erysipelas	6	.....	.....	1	.....	1	3	1	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	80	.....	24	53	2	1	.....	.....	54	.....
Typhus Fever ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Enteric Fever	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pneumonia	34	.....	6	1	4	7	12	4	.....	21
Malaria ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dysentery	3	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Poliomyelitis	4	.....	.....	1	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Encephalitis Lethargica	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Polio-Encephalitis ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	51	1	1	1	19	18	10	1	.....	25
Other forms of Tuberculosis	10	.....	1	5	3	1	.....	.....	.....	8
Totals	195	5	34	62	33	29	26	6	55	54

TABLE IV.
BOROUGH OF RUGBY.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1947.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	251	231
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	2	—
5 Diphtheria	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	16	5
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	5	3
8 Syphilitic Diseases	1	—
9 Influenza	—	—
10 Measles	—	—
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	—
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.	—	—
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	4	3
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	3	8
15 Cancer of Breast	—	9
16 Cancer, other Sites	28	20
17 Diabetes	1	3
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	24	34
19 Heart Disease	58	63
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys.	7	14
21 Bronchitis	8	5
22 Pneumonia	10	11
23 Other Resp. Diseases	5	4
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	5	—
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	6	1
26 Appendicitis	5	2
27 Other Digestive Diseases	5	3
28 Nephritis	3	3
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis	—	—
30 Other Maternal Causes	—	1
31 Premature Birth	3	1
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	6	8
33 Suicide	2	—
34 Road Traffic Accidents	6	—
35 Other Violent Causes	6	4
36 All Other Causes	32	26

